Mr. V. Achyuta Menon.—"This Council recommends to the Government to put up such masonry works as will prevent the flow of storm water into public bathing tanks as also the washing into them of dirt and dry leaves during the rainy season."

That is all that I have to say and I move the resolution.

Deputy President.—No seconder. The resolution goes.

The resolution was lost for want of a seconder.

36. Typists and Typewriters in the State.

As the mover was absent, the following resolution was considered withdrawn.

Mr. K. J. Antony.—" For the better upkeep of the costly typewriters, the services of better qualified typists are essential, this Council do recommend to the Government that in future only men of Intermediate or Higher Grade qualifications should be appointed as typists in the State carrying a pay of Rs. 40 and above, if such men are available.

37. Power to scrutinise the Budget, etc.

Deputy President.—Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—'This Council recommends to the Government that the non-official Members of the Standing Finance Committee be invested with the powers of scrutinising the detailed expenditure of votable funds in the budget or to appoint a new Public Accounts Committee composed of a majority of non-official Members of this House for scrutiny of the expenditure of the budgetted accounts.'

There was an identical resolution moved in this Council in the Legislative Session of 1104. Most of the arguments in support of the resolution has now been already placed before this House, when moving the resolution for the appointment of Standing Committees to be associated with the administration of the major spending departments of the Government. This is only the final aspect of that proposition. Once the expenditure has been sanctioned in the budget, this Council must be given the right to inspect and see whether the expenditure was properly iucurred and whether there was any deviation or transfer without the knowledge of the Council. Should not the Council know how the money has been spent? It is to carry out that object that this resolution is tabled. Last time the main objection of the Government seems to have been that, though there were Public Accounts Committees in the Provincial Councils of British India and the Imperial Legislative Assembly, there were no such committees in the various Indian States and the Government was waiting to see the sister States advance in this matter. The Government ignored the existence of such committees in Mysore. Of course they also point out our Council Regulation does not contemplate the appointment of such committees. For that matter, so far as the Finance Committee is concerned there is no provision in the Regulation. Still a Finance Committee is appointed. Government has got power and they can

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appoint committees if they are willing to accede to the request of this Council. The resolution was carried here last time unanimously by the non-officials, in spite of the opposition of the Government and the final orders were passed by the Government on the 25th May 1929. This is the resolution moved last time: "This Council recommends to the Government to invest the non-official Members of the Standing Finance Committee elected by this House with the powers of scrutinising the detailed expenditure of votable funds allotted for the various Departments of the State in the budget for the purpose of seeing that money is spent properly or to appoint a new Public Account Committee composed of a majority of non-official Members of this House for scrutiny". This is the order of the Government. "The present Legislative Council is only in its infant stage and all the powers that could at this stage be vested in it have been given and incorporated in the Legislative Council Regulations and the Rules. Neither the substantive provisions of the Regulation nor the rules issued thereunder will admit of any detailed powers of control over expenditure being vested either in the Legislative Council or in any committee appointed by it The granting of any further powers as contemplated in the resolution will be considered when it is time to proceed to the next stage. Government do not think that the time has come for the grant of a further instalment of powers. Government are unable to accept the resolution." The Council can either reduce or omit a grant in the Budget; but it cannot see how the money has been spent. The argument seems to be that the Council is in its infancy and some time should elapse before further powers are given to it to enable it to see how the money has been spent. Infants can only touch money in our hands but you cannot know how the Government has made use of it and you cannot also use the money in our hands. For the information of the House I say the resolution last time was moved by Infant Mr. Salem whom you see with his long beard before you. Some comment was made upon this argument of infancy in the budget speech soon after the Proceedings were issued by the Government and sufficient has been said upon this matter in the Council to show that the Council should be entrusted with these powers. If the Government wanted more detailed information with regard to the functions of these committees, I have got all the references and I can leave that information to the Members on the side of the Government, so that they may not evade the question saying 'as they did yesterday' that the Member has not stated in detail what are the functions of the Public Accounts Committee contemplated by the resolution. Last time I referred to the rules of the Assembly; this time I shall refer to the Mysore rules. Before these rules were issued by the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore, the matter was discussed by a Committee appointed for consideration of this and other allied subjects and in passing orders on the report of the committee there is a paragraph relevant to the issue:—"The committee

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have recommended the constitution of a committee of the Legislative Council on Public Accounts in addition to the Standing Committee on Finance and taxation now sanctioned. This latter committee consists of Members from the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council and its main function is to advise Government on their proposals for the appropriation of revenue and other money in connection with the preparation of the annual State Budget. When the Budget is placed before the Legislative Council, that body in voting on the demands for appropriation, exercises control in respect of the objects on which Government moneys may be spent and the amounts that may be spent on each object. Government agree that the Council *should also be in a position to know to what extent its wishes, as expressed in its grant of demnds, have been complied with.* The formation of a Committee of the Legislative Council which will scrutinise the Audit and Appropriation reports of the Audit Department of Government and bring to the notice of the Gouncil all deviations from its intentions is necessary for this purpose, and Government are accordingly pleased to sanction the Committee's proposal. Rules regarding the formation and working of the Committee will issue separately".

And rules 23 and 24 of the Mysore rules were subsequently issued by the Government. *23. Committee on Public Accounts* (1) As soon as maybe after the commencement of each financial year, a Committee of Public Accounts shall be constitued for the purpose of dealing with the audit and appropriation accounts of the Government.

(2) Exclusive of the Chairman, the total strength of the Committee on Public Accounts shall be six, on whom two-thirds shall be elected by the non-official Members of the Council and the remaining one-third nominated by the Government.

(3) The Finance Member of the Council of His Highness the Maharaja shall be the Chairman of the Committee, provided that when the Diwan is the Member in charge of the financial portfolio, one of the other Members of the Council appointed by the Government for the purpose shall be the Chairman of the Committee. In the case of an equality of votes on any matter, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote"

Then rule 24. (1). "In scrutinising the audit and appropriation accounts of the Government it shall be the duty of the Committee to satisfy itself that the money voted by the Council has been spent within the scope of the demand granted by the Council.

(2) It shall be the duty of the Committee to bring to the notice of the Council:—

(1) Every re-appropriation from one grant to another grant; and

(2) every re-appropriation within a grant which is not made in accordance with the rules, regarding re-appropriation, or which has the effect of increasing the expenditure on an item the provision for which has been specifically reduced by a vote of the Council."

These are the functions. We have got similar rules in regard to the Legislative Assembly and the Provincial Councils.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I beg to second it. This is a subject which is very dear to our hearts as it is the one way of getting increasing association of the people with the Government. Of course we are not tired of speaking upon the subject, because we have not yet got it. Rama will cry for the moon till he gets it.

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Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—But he will not get the moon.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—It is not the case of Rama getting the moon. We shall little by little get these things. We are not Ramas, we have passed from that stage. We are all men now.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Not infants.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Last time the charge against the Council being invested with those powers was that the Council was in its infancy. But I think we have grown rapidly and some years have passed since we began work; and I think the Government know that, in spite of their having a big Government block, they cannot carry anything if we are combined. We have shown the Government the sorry spectacle that they can be defeated times out of number and still carry on as if nothing happened. Is this a good spectacle? Is this an edifying political sight, a political picture to be presented to the world, that here is a Government which is defeated times after times and still can carry on? That is a point which we want the Government to consider; and what do we ask by this? We say, little by little, let us have the power of the purse. It is only by fighting for the power of the purse that we can bend any Government. In all places where constitutional Government has grown, the way in which people fought against the powers was by the method of getting control over the purse. In England that is the method by which the Government is kept in its proper position; that is the method by which the Government is made to move and act. They know that their salaries will come upon the estimates, and the House will refuse to pass the salary and that they must get on. Even the expenditure for the palace has to be voted by the House. That is how the King's power was taken little by little by the people. Similarly we are under the same process. Let there be no mistake upon it. Although it is the bureaucracy that is sitting here, yet the idea is to transfer the power little by little and in stages to the non-official block till responsibility comes. We want the Government to welcome our demands, to get us associated with them particularly in financial matters and to give us a good working knowledge of the finances. The one idea that is striking them is control. Even in the order that my clean shaven infant, the Honbl'e Member for Jenmies, was quoting the word control was there. That is what is frightening the Government benches. So they are saying that we are not prepared to give the control. There is no such word control in this resolution. This resolution only says "This Council recommends to the Government that the non-official Members of the Standing Finance Committee be invested with the powers of scrutinising the

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detailed expenditure of votable funds in the budget or to appoint a new Public Accounts Committee composed of a majority of non-oificial Members of this House for scrutiny of the expenditure of the budgetted accounts'. No word of control here. The Government will control. The Diwan will control, the Departments will control in the case of the expenditure. But we will scrutinise and if we find that anything is going out of the way or not going in the proper way it will be our function to bring those matters under control and we will control the same. Let there not be any fright in the minds of the Government that we are attempting now to get the control. We will attempt to get the control in due course.

Later on we will have to enter on a fight to get the control. Certainly we are on the road to that goal and we are rightly fighting for that. You cannot democatrise a State unless and until you give the people the ideas of a Government. We are doing all these so that there may be a body ready on this side of the House to take the place of the Government on that side. Therefore, I hope that the Government's mentality would have been changed by a course of six years and the idea that we are still infants may be removed and the idea, to put it mildly I may say, that we are in a State of adolescence may be entertained. I hope every Member here will cast his vote as we had cast our votes in favour of the resolution once before, and give a chance to the Government or another golden opportunity to move with public opinion or flout public opinion once again.

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—I have nothing to add to what has already been explained in the Council on the last occasion. I think the whole constituion of India is in its remaking and a Federal constitution of India is a certainty. It appears to be certain then that there will be some changes here also and the whole question will be viewed at the proper time and the recommendation in the resolution will be given due weight. That is all what I can say now.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—I would just say a word.

Dr. A. G. Menon:—The mover has an idea to withdraw his resolution.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—The Secretary is on his legs.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—I am not very anxious to stand, much less to make a speech.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Please go on. Let us hear you.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—I am indeed very grateful for the urge of the Member for Trichur, who is a Parliamentarian. I shall not linger long over the preliminary remarks of the Member for Jews. I do not think the Government had any idea of insinuating that the Members were infants. It only referred to the infancy of the Council. I am afraid the Member

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misunderstood the Government, and wanted to get over that defect by growing a venerable beard. (*Laughter*). In spite of that we at times have to regard him as an Infant Terrible. (*Laughter*). There is no need of a Committee here like the one in the resolution. Even in Madras, it will be seen that the object of a Committee is only to scrutinise the appropriation grants and the report of the Audit Officer on them. The Audit Officer has to see that the money voted has been spent within the scope of the demand granted by the Council. That is all. I am afraid the present resolution is far from that track.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—It is all one and the same.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—There are others who will understand arignt my wording and the Madras wording. I think the present Standing Finance Committee is doing all that is necessary with regard to the scrutiny of the budget. Every item is placed before the Standing Finance Committee and they are critically examining every votable item in the budget.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—We are doing that with reference to the allotment and not with reference to the expenditure. That is a great difference. What we are doing there is scrutinising the allotments and not the appropriation and expenditure. Now we want provision that the expenditure and allotment be also looked into. That is all.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Has the Hon'ble Secretary finished?

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—I speak only what is absolutely necessary. I do not speak for making a speech.

Dr. A. G. Menon —I second the Secretary in that idea—(*Hear, hear*)

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja—I withdraw the resolution.

The Resolution was withdrawn with leave of the House.

38. Quran Kept in Law Courts.

The following resolution was not moved as the mover was then absent.

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi:—This Council recommends to the Government that out of regard for the religious susceptibilities of the Muslims the copies of the Quran kept in Law Courts might be removed and handed over to the Muslims.

39. Low-paid Government Servants.

As the mover was absent, the following resolution was also considered withdrawn.

Mr. Ouseph P. Kundukulam:—This Council recommends to the Government that all low—paid servants of the Government on Rs. 15 and below be posted nearest to the places convenient to them.

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